

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A metallic product comprising:
 2 a metallic curved hollow member having a hollow cross section which
 3 comprises a thin wall portion and a thick wall portion which is thicker than the thin
 4 wall portion, the metallic curved hollow member being produced by bending a
 5 metallic straight hollow member produced by extrusion of aluminum material which
 6 is one of aluminum and aluminum alloy.

1 2. The metallic product as claimed in claim 1, in which the thick wall portion and
 2 the thin wall portion extend in a longitudinal direction of the metallic curved hollow
 3 member, in which the thick wall portion and the thin wall portion are sections
 4 formed by the extrusion, and in which the thick wall portion and the thin wall
 5 portion extend along a periphery of the hollow cross section of the metallic curved
 6 hollow member.

1 3. The metallic product as claimed in claim 2, in which the metallic straight
 2 hollow member has a hollow cross section which comprises a thin wall portion and a
 3 thick wall portion which is thicker than the thin wall portion, the thin wall portion
 4 and the thick wall portion extending along a periphery of the hollow cross section of
 5 the metallic straight hollow member.

1 4. The metallic product as claimed in claim 3, in which the metallic straight
 2 hollow member is formed into an eccentric pipe comprising an inner cylindrical
 3 surface and an outer cylindrical surface, the inner cylindrical surface being eccentric
 4 from the outer cylindrical surface.

1 5. The metallic product as claimed in claim 2, in which the thick wall portion of
 2 the metallic curved hollow member is shaped substantially into a box girder, and
 3 extends from a first corner to a second corner adjacent to the first corner along the
 4 periphery of the hollow cross section of the metallic curved hollow member.

1 6. A production process of forming a metallic curved hollow member, the process
2 comprising:

3 forming a metallic straight hollow member by extrusion of aluminum material
4 which is one of aluminum and aluminum alloy; and

5 bending the metallic straight hollow member into the metallic curved hollow
6 member, the metallic curved hollow member having a hollow cross section which
7 comprises a thin wall portion and a thick wall portion which is thicker than the thin
8 wall portion.

1 7. A metallic product comprising:

2 a metallic curved hollow member having a hollow cross section which
3 comprises a cross-shaped portion, the metallic curved hollow member being
4 produced by bending a metallic straight hollow member produced by extrusion of
5 aluminum material which is one of aluminum and aluminum alloy.

1 8. A production process of forming a metallic curved hollow member, the process
2 comprising:

3 forming a metallic straight hollow member by extrusion of aluminum material
4 which is one of aluminum and aluminum alloy; and

5 bending the metallic straight hollow member into the metallic curved hollow
6 member, the metallic curved hollow member having a hollow cross section which
7 comprises a cross-shaped portion.

1 9. A vehicular member construction comprising:

2 a pair of side members extending substantially in a fore-and-aft direction of a
3 vehicle and spaced apart from each other substantially in a widthwise direction of
4 the vehicle; and

5 a cross member for connecting the pair of the side members;

6 wherein at least one of the side member and the cross member has a hollow
7 cross section comprising:

8 a thin wall portion; and

9 a thick wall portion which is thicker than the thin wall portion.

1 10. The vehicular member construction as claimed in claim 9, in which the at least
 2 one of the side member and the cross member that has the hollow cross section
 3 comprising the thick wall portion is produced by bending a metallic straight hollow
 4 member produced by extrusion of aluminum material which is one of aluminum and
 5 aluminum alloy.

1 11. The vehicular member construction as claimed in claim 10, in which the thick
 2 wall portion and the thin wall portion extend in a longitudinal direction of the side
 3 member, and in which the thick wall portion and the thin wall portion are sections
 4 formed by the extrusion.

1 12. The vehicular member construction as claimed in claim 11, in which the
 2 metallic straight hollow member has a hollow cross section which comprises a thin
 3 wall portion and a thick wall portion which is thicker than the thin wall portion.

1 13. The vehicular member construction as claimed in claim 12, in which the
 2 metallic straight hollow member is formed into an eccentric pipe comprising an
 3 inner cylindrical surface and an outer cylindrical surface, a center of the inner
 4 cylindrical surface being eccentric from a center of the outer cylindrical surface.

1 14. The vehicular member construction as claimed in claim 9, in which the side
 2 member comprises a suspension link bracket for supporting a suspension link for
 3 linking the side member and a wheel of the vehicle, the suspension link bracket
 4 being mounted on the thick wall portion of the side member, the thick wall portion
 5 being thicker than the thin wall portion of the side member.

1 15. The vehicular member construction as claimed in claim 9, in which the thick
 2 wall portion that is thicker than the thin wall portion is formed through a hydraulic
 3 forming method comprising the following sequential operations of:
 4 bending a workpiece which is straight and hollow; and
 5 pressing the workpiece so that the workpiece has a cross section which is
 6 substantially rectangular in shape.

1 16. The vehicular member construction as claimed in claim 15, in which upper and
2 lower dies used for the hydraulic forming method defines a cavity which is formed
3 with an inner surface, and in which a gap defined between the workpiece and a
4 unique portion of the inner surface of the cavity is greater than a gap defined
5 between the workpiece and other portion of the inner surface other than the unique
6 portion, the workpiece being of the at least one of the side member and the cross
7 member.

1 17. A production process of forming a vehicular member construction, the process
2 comprising:

3 forming a metallic straight hollow member by extrusion of aluminum material
4 which is one of aluminum and aluminum alloy; and

5 bending the metallic straight hollow member into a metallic curved hollow
6 member, the metallic curved hollow member having a hollow cross section which
7 comprises a thin wall portion and a thick wall portion which is thicker than the thin
8 wall portion.

1 18. A vehicular member construction comprising:

2 a pair of side members extending substantially in a fore-and-aft direction of a
3 vehicle and spaced apart from each other substantially in a widthwise direction of
4 the vehicle; and

5 a cross member for connecting the pair of the side members;

6 wherein at least one of the side member and the cross member has a hollow
7 cross section comprising a cross-shaped portion.

1 19. The vehicular member as claimed in claim 18, in which the at least one of the
2 side member and the cross member that has the hollow cross section comprising the
3 cross-shaped portion is produced by bending a metallic straight hollow member
4 produced by extrusion of aluminum material which is one of aluminum and
5 aluminum alloy.

1 20. A production process of forming a vehicular member construction, the process
2 comprising:

- 3 forming a metallic straight hollow member by extrusion of aluminum material
4 which is one of aluminum and aluminum alloy; and
5 bending the metallic straight hollow member into a metallic curved hollow
6 member, the metallic curved hollow member having a hollow cross section which
7 comprises a cross-shaped portion.